

ART. XVI.—*Catalogue of the Army Medical Museum, Surgeon-General's Office, Washington, D. C., January 1, 1863.* Washington: Government Printing-Office, 1863. 8vo. pp. 58.

THIS catalogue contains a list of the objects collected up to the beginning of the present year, for the purpose of preservation in the Army Medical Museum of the United States, established last August by the Surgeon-General, William A. Hammond. Thirteen hundred and forty-nine objects are herein recorded, comprehending not only surgical and medical pathological specimens, but also the missiles by which injuries are inflicted in war.

Of these specimens, nine hundred and eighty-five are surgical, one hundred and six are medical, and one hundred and thirty-three are missiles, the greater number of which have been extracted from the body. An interesting portion of the collection is a series of projectiles for small arms, field and heavy guns; and also a complete set of the bayonets now in use in our own and foreign services. For this important addition to the Museum, prepared at the Washington Arsenal, Dr. Brinton, the curator, expresses his indebtedness to Lieut. Col. Geo. D. Ramsay, of the ordnance department of the army.

Each one of these objects has been appropriately and permanently mounted; the dried preparations on stands, and the wet in glass anatomical jars, of the most approved patterns, and constructed for the purpose. We feel ourselves entitled, from personal observation, to speak of the manner in which these preparations have been made, as manifesting the most admirable skill and carefulness. A label is attached, on which is inscribed its catalogue number and the name and rank of the medical officer from whom it was received.

In the catalogue now before us, which has been prepared by Dr. Wm. Moss, Assistant Surgeon U. S. A., a brief description of every object is given, and on the same line, in a separate column, its museum number and the name of the contributor. When a sufficient history has been received of a specimen, an asterisk is attached to the number. It will be noticed with regret that a large proportion of the numbers are not accompanied by this mark, and it is to be hoped that medical officers recognizing their contributions will exert themselves to supply this deficiency.

As no attempt has been made to classify the specimens in the museum, the object for the present being simply to collect and preserve, and as no general observations are made in the pamphlet before us, we can now do little more than call the attention of our readers to what has already been accomplished by the able hands to whom the Surgeon-General has committed the important task of forming an army medical museum. W. F. A.

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ART. XVII.—*The Principles and Practice of Surgery, embracing Minor and Operative Surgery; with a Bibliographical Index of American Surgical Writers from the year 1783 to 1860. Arranged for the use of Students, and Illustrated by 400 Woodcuts and nearly 1000 Engravings on Steel.* By HENRY H. SMITH, M. D., Professor of Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania, &c. In two volumes. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1863. Octavo, pp. 826 and 769.

THE present volumes we are informed, in the preface, embrace the substance of the author's three treatises, on "Minor Surgery," on "Operative Surgery," and on the "Practice of Surgery." The whole of these three treatises, it is there stated, "has been carefully revised, a considerable portion rewritten, about five hundred pages of new matter added, and the work specially prepared to serve as a text-book or aid to those in attendance on surgical lectures."

From the just and comprehensive reviews of these several works published in this journal at the time of their appearance, its readers are acquainted with the treatises above enumerated. In his work of revising them and of re-writing portions, in the preparation of the two volumes before us, the author has stopped far short of such changes, both in style and in matter, as were required in a text-book for students. At the risk of appearing like the man in Hierocles, who carried a brick about with him as a sample of a house, we will present the following prescription as it was given in the first edition of the *Practice of Surgery* and as it is found now *revised*, assuring our readers that it fairly exemplifies the changes made throughout the work. There is some improvement, but it is by no means sufficient:—

“R. *Mentha piperita*, *origanum vulgare*, *rosmarinus officinalis*, *salvia officinalis*, *thymus vulgaris*, *flores lavandula vera*, āā ʒij; *vini rubri* (claret), Oij. Mix, and let it stand fifteen days.”—*Treatise on the Practice*, &c., p. 118.

“R. *Menthæ piperitæ*, *origani vulgaris*, *rosmarinus officinalis*, *salviæ officinalis*, *thymus vulgaris*, *flores lavandula vera*, āā ʒij; *vini rubri* (claret), Oij. Mix, and let it stand fifteen days.”—*The Principles and Practice*, &c., vol. i. p. 261.

The additions that have been made to the present work, we regret extremely to say, are not found where they were most needed. There is, for example, a chapter, or rather a section of a chapter, on pyemia in the *Treatise on the Practice of Surgery*, where the whole of this subject, than which there is none more important, is treated of in less than eighty lines.

To this section nothing has been added in the present volumes, and we still read the extraordinary statement which is intended as a reason for this, that this “disease, though of frequent occurrence in the hospitals of Europe, is not common in the United States, and therefore merely requires this brief allusion.”

The student who relies upon the work before us for information in regard to what awaits him in his future career, and for ability to recognize and encounter the difficulties of the practice of surgery, will find himself most sadly disappointed.

The volumes are so profusely illustrated, that the work might be styled the *Pictorial Practice and Principles of Surgery*. W. F. A.

#### ART. XVIII.—*Reports of American Hospitals for the Insane.*

1. *Of the Massachusetts State Hospital, at Taunton, for the year 1861.*
2. *Of the Buller Hospital, for the year 1861.*
3. *Of the Retreat for the Insane, for the fiscal year 1861–62.*
4. *Of the Vermont Asylum, for the fiscal year 1861–62.*

THERE is great diversity in the corporate title of our establishments for the treatment of mental alienation. We have Lunatic Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums. We have Insane Hospitals and Hospitals for the Insane. We have Insane Asylums and Asylums for the Insane. We have a Retreat for the Insane and an Asylum for the Relief of Persons deprived of the Use of their Reason, the latter title going all about the country to avoid what was formerly considered a stumbling-stone, but which is a stumbling-stone no longer; and, finally, we have a Bloomingdale Asylum, a Long View Asylum, a Maryland Hospital and a Mount Hope Institution, each without any prefix or appendix indicative of the special purpose of the establishment to which it belongs.

In consideration of these differences we have heretofore, in the title of the articles in which we have reviewed the reports of these establishments, employed the word “Institutions,” that being a generic term comprehending all the titles aforementioned. We have now discarded that word and use “Hospitals” in its stead. This, by some, may be thought a small matter, and unworthy of the paper and ink which we have already expended upon it. We do not so consider it, but believe it worthy of still further consideration.